

REMARKS

Claims 39-76 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 39, 42, 44, 54, 56, 60, 61, 63, 65, 72 and 73 are currently amended, Claims 40, 41, 43, 59, 62, 64 and 71 are cancelled without prejudice, new Claims 77 and 78 have been added, and Claims 45-53, 55, 57, 58, 66-70 and 74-76 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's granting an interview on December 9, 2008 in the present case. There the discussion focused on German Reference DE3739145 (DE '145) and Claims 39-76. An agreement was reached with respect to the claims. During the interview the Applicant proposed incorporating the allowable subject matter of Claim 43 into Claim 39, and Claim 65 into Claim 56 along with intervening claims. Applicant also proposed new claims that incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 41, 43 and 71. The Examiner indicated that the proposed claims distinguish over the prior art of record and the application would be allowable pending an updated search.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 43, 44, 53, 65, 71-74 and 76 include allowable subject matter.

As discussed during the interview, allowable original Claims 43 and 41 have been rewritten in independent form as Claim 39 to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, independent Claim 39 is allowable. Dependent Claims 40, 42, 44-53 all ultimately depend from independent Claim 39 and are allowable for the same and other reasons. Further, allowable original Claim 64 has been rewritten in independent form as Claim 56 to include all the limitations of the base claim. Also as discussed during the interview, allowable original Claims 43 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form as New Claim 77 to include all the limitations of the base claim 39. Allowable original Claim 71 has

been rewritten in independent form as New Claim 78 to include all the limitations of the base claim. Dependent Claims 57, 58, 60, 61, 63, 65-70, 72 and 76 all ultimately depend from independent Claim 56 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claims 54 and 62-66 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 54 and 62 have been amended in a manner to overcome the rejection.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 39, 40, 46-52, 55, 56, 59-63, 66, 67 and 75 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by German Reference DE 3739145 A1 (DE '145). Claims 41, 42, 45, 57, 58, 64 and 68-70 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '145 in view of German Reference DE 10126842 A1 (DE '842).

The extensive claim amendments presented herein act to rewrite the claims in a manner indicated by the Examiner in the Official Action and during the interview to overcome the foregoing rejections and to place the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 39, 42, 44-58, 60, 61, 63, 65-70 and 72-78 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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